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**S-E-C-R-E-T****COUNTRY** East Germany**REPORT**

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**SUBJECT** Germanium Transistor Development and Production in East Germany**DATE DISTR.** 24 March 1955**NO. OF PAGES** 2**DATE OF INFO.****REQUIREMENT**

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1. In the fall of 1954, the East German government was faced with the decision as to what enterprise should be entrusted with the task of germanium transistor development and eventually with transistor production. The two competing enterprises were VEB Werk fuer Bauelemente der Nachrichtentechnik (Dralowid) in Teltow, and VEB Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen (formerly OSU) in Berlin-Oberschoeneweide. A preliminary decision reached at that time favored the Dralowid plant as the one to be exclusively charged with transistor development and production<sup>1</sup>. The Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise, however, did not give up hopes of also obtaining government orders and allocation of funds for transistor development and production<sup>2</sup>. These hopes were mainly based on the excellent political connections existing between the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise and the government.
2. Because of the continuous efforts of the Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise, the government eventually reversed its preliminary decision and ordered a competition to be held between the two enterprises. The competition was based on a contract drawn up in exact terms which established the conditions of the competition and the obligations of the two enterprises. According to the terms of this contract both enterprises had to forward samples of transistors to Prof. Hans Fruehauf, of Dresden Technical University, who was appointed arbitrator. The deadline was set for 10 January 1955.
3. By 10 January 1955, the Dralowid plant had sent transistor samples to Dresden. The Berlin-Oberschoeneweide enterprise had not sent samples there but excused itself, by a letter to Fruehauf, for its inability to meet the deadline.

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